

Serial No.: 10/535,366
Docket No.: 09792909-6253
Amendment dated June 30, 2009
Reply to the Office Action of April 1, 2009

A. Introduction

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 21-23 were pending and under consideration. Claims 3 and 16-20 are cancelled, and claims 4 and 7-15 are withdrawn.

In the Office Action dated April 1, 2009 ("the Office Action"), claims 1-3, 5, and 6 were rejected as obvious.

Without conceding to the merits of the rejection, claims have been amended to clarify an aspect of the present general inventive concept and claims 24 and 25 are new. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are requested.

B. Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claim 1-3, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,470 to Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,606,122 to Shaw. The rejections are traversed for at least the following reason.

Independent claim 1 requires a plurality of signal lines to select the pixels including a full-face signal line and a reset signal line. The full-face signal line that (1) is shared by the pixels, (2) surrounds each of the plurality of unit cells, (3) serves as a light shielding film, and (4) has an opening corresponding to a light receiving surface for every pixel. The reset signal line supplies a reset signal to a reset unit to reset an input section of the amplifying unit.

Tanaka is limited to a reset line 36-1, which is not the same as a full-face signal line. Further, Tanaka's reset line (1) is not shared by any pixels, (2) does not surround each of the plurality of unit cells, (3) is not a light shielding film, and (4) does not have an opening for every pixel as required by independent claim 1. The Examiner acknowledges that reset line 36-1 is not a light shielding film and does not have an opening for every pixel, but relies on Shaw. See the Office Action, page 4.

However, Shaw is limited to a Metal 2 for pixel row selection that is used as a light shield to cover "most of the active area outside of the pixel array." See Shaw, col. 9, Ins. 44-47. Thus,

Serial No.: 10/535,366
Docket No.: 09792909-6253
Amendment dated June 30, 2009
Reply to the Office Action of April 1, 2009

Shaw's Metal 2 does not surround each of the plurality of unit cells as required by independent claim 1. Further, Shaw's Metal 2 is not shared by any pixels and does not have an opening for every pixel as required by independent claim 1.

Accordingly, neither Tanaka nor Shaw, individually or combined disclose or fairly suggest all of the limitations recited in independent claim 1 and this claim is patentable over the art of record. Claims 2, 5, 6 and 21-23 depend from independent claim 1, include all of the limitations of independent claim 1, and are patentable over the art of record for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Thus, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 21-23 are earnestly solicited.

C. New Claims

New claims 24 and 25 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification and drawings, for example, in Figures 1 and 2, and corresponding portions of the Specification. New claims 24 and 25 recite features, which are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art of record.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 24 and 25 do not present new matter and are allowable over the prior art of record, and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Serial No.: 10/535,366
Docket No.: 09792909-6253
Amendment dated June 30, 2009
Reply to the Office Action of April 1, 2009

D. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP

By /Adam C. Rehm/
Adam C. Rehm, Reg. No. 54,797
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
816-460-2542 (telephone)
816-531-7545 (facsimile)

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT